



Ontario

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Investing in Our Future:

Ontario's Regional
Priority Budget 1973-1978





Ministry of Treasury,
Economics and
Intergovernmental
Affairs

Ministry of
Northern Affairs

Investing in Our Future:

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Government
Publications

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The Honourable
W. Darcy McKeough
Minister

The Honourable
Leo Bernier
Minister

A. Rendall Dick
Deputy Minister

Tom Campbell
Deputy Minister

Where the Money Goes

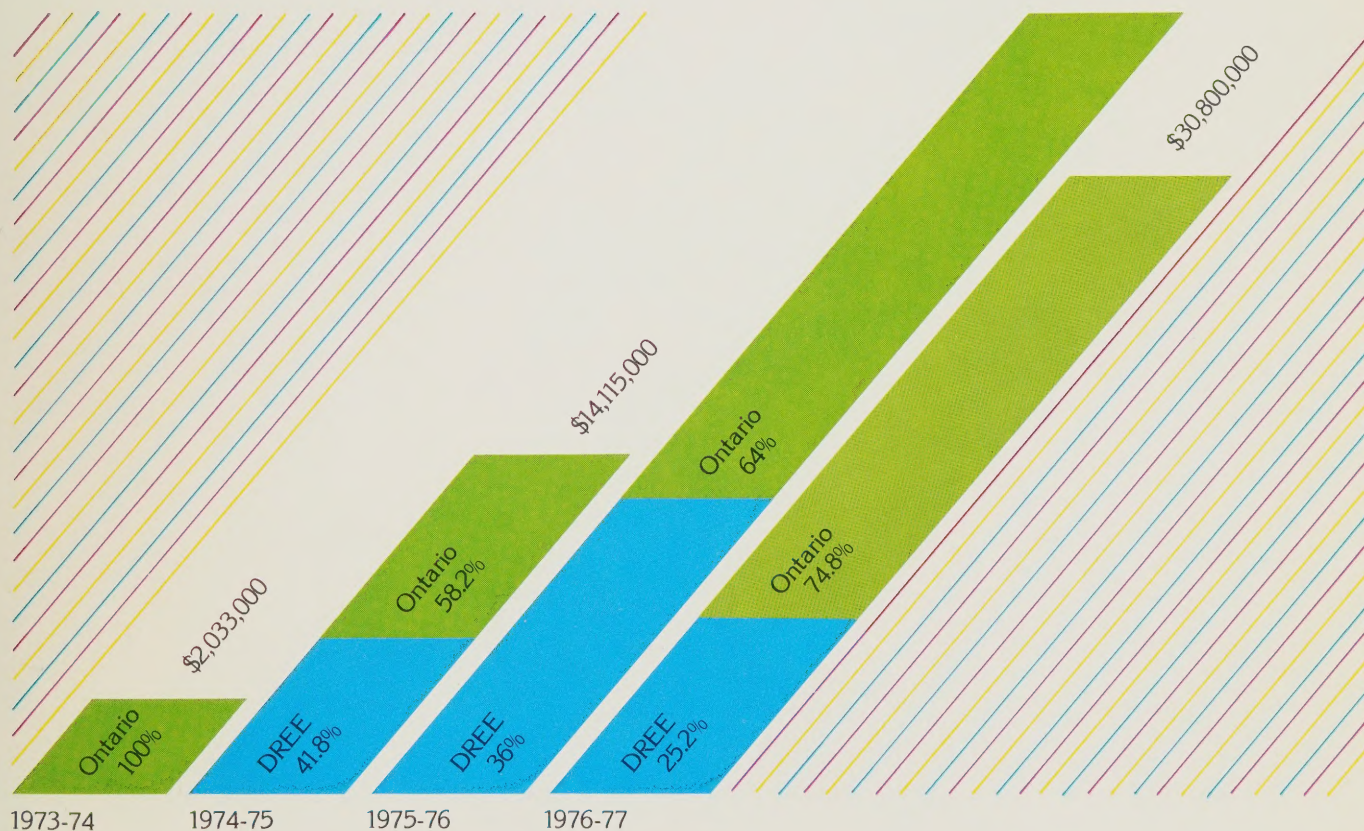
Regional Priority Budget
Total expenditures
1973-1978

Expenditures by Project Type (\$'000's)	73-74	74-75	75-76	76-77	(77-78)*	TOTAL	%
Community Infrastructure (water and sewage)		8,641	26,184	18,345	26,742	79,912	56.0
Industrial Park Servicing			690	1,606	6,482	8,778	6.2
Resources Development (access roads)	783	4,025	7,407	7,453	8,963	28,631	20.0
Services							
Regional Infrastructure (telecommunications, roads)	1,213	900	3,071	3,128	13,616	21,928	15.4
Labour Development		172	91	94	119	476	.3
Social Development	37	377	1,182	174	500	2,270	2.1
Total	2,033	14,115	38,625	30,800	56,422	141,995	100.0

*Estimates

Where the Money Comes From

DREE*/Ontario shares of
Ontario Regional Priority Budget
expenditures
1973-1977



*DREE — Department of Regional Economic Expansion

The challenge

Ontario is one of the richest provinces in Canada in terms of individual opportunity and aggregate economic wealth. There are, however, economic disparities within the Province.

For example, the rate of development in some parts of Northern and Eastern Ontario traditionally has not kept pace with the overall development of the province.

The reasons for these disparities vary, but the common denominators tend to be a limited range of economic activity and limited growth of employment opportunities, particularly in some older industries.

Meeting the challenge

One of the major objectives of the Ontario Government is to enable all areas of the province to participate fully in our economic development and share in the benefits of our economic well-being. The Province of Ontario has been directly meeting the challenges of alleviating disparities within Ontario.

Design for Development

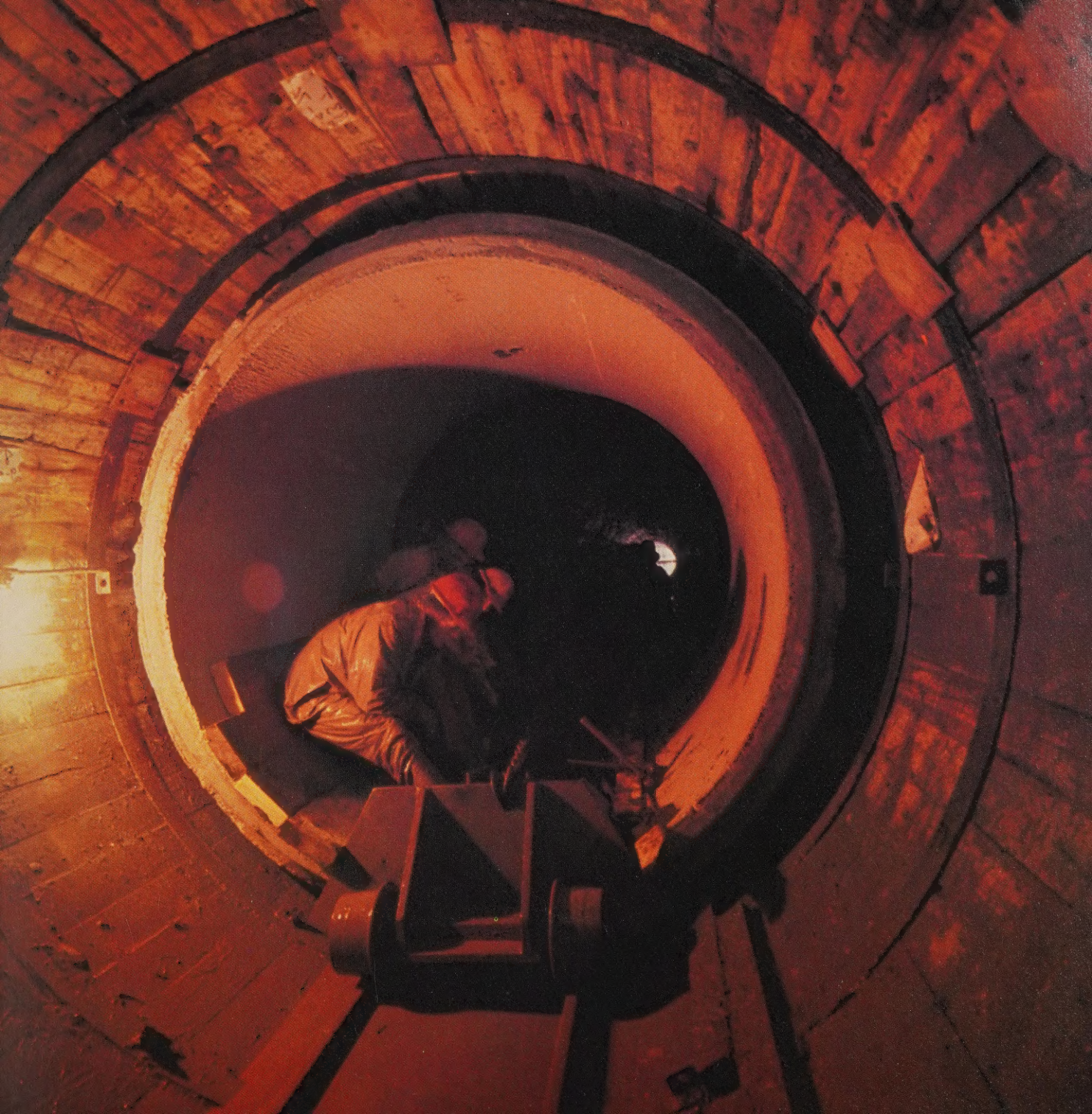
In 1966, after extensive studies and consultation at both the ministerial and local levels, the Government of Ontario initiated the Design for Development program which set out the Province's regional goals and developed plans and strategies to achieve them.

Design for Development has been reviewed and updated during the past 10 years, but its aims and principles have remained unaltered:

- to enhance the quality of life for the people of Ontario;
- to encourage private enterprise to prosper within a healthy and balanced community;
- to conserve natural resources for the benefit of all the people of Ontario;
- to improve the effectiveness of provincial services in each region;
- to equalize opportunity, both social and economic, in all parts of Ontario.

Workers tunnel under Thunder Bay, building a \$30-million main trunk sewer that will service the city's growing population.

(Photo courtesy of DREE)



Regional Priority Budget

The Regional Priority Budget is one instrument through which the regional equality goals set by the Design for Development can become reality and not just theory.

Created in 1973 by Cabinet authorization, the Regional Priority Budget provides financing for projects with a high regional significance or urgency, over and above the normal ministerial budgets.

In the past five years, the Regional Priority Budgets have financed 72 projects totaling more than \$93 million. From a modest beginning of \$2.4 million in 1973, the program expanded to \$38.6 million in 1975-1976 and, owing to financial restraints, was cut back slightly to \$38.3 million in 1976-1977.

For 1977-1978, the Treasurer of Ontario has proposed a total budget of \$56,422,000, an increase of more than \$18 million over the amount allocated in 1976-1977. This increase was provided for through savings and efficiency measures in other areas of government spending arising from the government's fiscal restraint program.

New initiatives will involve an estimated expenditure of \$14 million in 1977-1978. In total, it is estimated that the new initiatives will result in regional investments of some \$50 million during the next three years.

These programs have played and will continue to play a significant role in reducing regional economic disparities.



With a seating capacity of 7,000 the auditorium in the Cornwall Civic Centre can be adapted to hockey, basketball, symphony concerts or trade shows and conventions.

Canada-Ontario General Development Agreement

To expedite the implementation of the Design for Development, the Province also enlisted the aid of the federal government. On March 31, 1974, the Government of Ontario signed a 10-year General Development Agreement with the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

The purpose of the GDA is to facilitate federal-provincial co-operation in the pursuit of regional development strategies within the framework of the provincial Design for Development.

Six subsidiary agreements have since been signed, calling for a total expenditure of \$62,074,996, divided between DREE and the Province. The sub-agreements are:

Northwestern Ontario Sub-Agreement (May 31, 1974)

Cornwall Sub-Agreement (February 26, 1974)

Dryden Sub-Agreement (March 24, 1975)

Interim Northlands Sub-Agreement (March 25, 1976)

Northeastern Ontario Sub-Agreement (March 25, 1976)

Single Industry Resource Communities Sub-Agreement (October 18, 1976).

Ontario has agreed to bear the additional responsibility for the administrative and management costs which are then added to the direct cost of each project.

The GDA represents a successful joint effort by both governments to improve employment opportunities in less-advantaged areas and to improve the quality of life for all residents of Ontario.

Projects

Under the Regional Priority Budget, the Government of Ontario has implemented a large number of diversified projects.

The program emphasizes capital investments which contribute directly to a region's economic potential. Since 1973, the Province has allocated 77 per cent of Regional Priority Budget expenditures to the provision of community, regional and industrial investments.

Since 1973, approximately 75 per cent of total expenditures has been spent in Northwestern Ontario, with 18 per cent in Eastern Ontario.

The wide range of projects undertaken by the program is reflected by the number of different provincial ministries involved in implementing them. To date, the ministries most involved are the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources.



The \$16-million Civic Centre in Cornwall is a multi-purpose facility attracting a variety of events to the area.

Local services

The Thunder Bay Project is representative of the major thrust of the Regional Priority Budget Program. One of the largest projects, underway since 1974, the Thunder Bay Project is aimed at upgrading the city's sewage system to accommodate its present and future development.

Ignace, Kenora, Ear Falls, Timmins, Dryden and other northern communities are also benefitting from similar water and sewage improvement projects.

Transportation and resource development

Transportation is also high on the Province's priority list. In the North, the emphasis is on building, upgrading and extending roads to provide access to remote resource areas and to join isolated communities.

In order to expand forest and mining employment opportunities Highway 599 in Northwestern Ontario is currently being upgraded.

The completion of the Dryden-Fort Frances Road, now under construction, will not only provide a resource access road for forestry, mining and tourism but will also constitute a social benefit since it will save 73 miles travelling distance between the two communities.

Other projects include the upgrading of airports and telecommunications.

The Province and Bell Telephone Co. are currently engaged in a project to provide direct dial services to remote northern communities. Apart from the obvious benefits to improved communications, the project is also expected to result in substantial local employment.

Industrial development

Other projects focus on developing regional industries. These projects run the gamut from the development of historical fur trade routes to promote tourism, to the expansion of the wild rice and trapping industries in the North, to the building of major industrial parks.

Social and justice projects

Social projects underway include mobile teaching laboratories, employment studies, bursaries to native students and the building of a civic centre in Cornwall.

In the area of justice, projects include native self-policing programs, a life skills

training program at the Kenora jail and general consumer education programs.

A complete list of the projects undertaken by the Ontario Regional Priority Budgets program with details of their financing follows.

Below: The Walden Industrial Park site emerges out of the Northern Ontario landscape near Sudbury.



Right: Nearing completion, Highway 599 in Northwest Ontario travels north from Ignace and swings westward to link up with the remote community of Windigo Lake.



Regional Priority Budget summary of expenditures 1973-1978

The Projects

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Blue coded areas indicate joint financing by the Province of Ontario and the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

PROJECT	REGION	MINISTRY	EXPENDITURES					TOTAL
			1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78 Proposed	
Lake Superior North Shore Study	NW	Natural Res.	50,447	8,528	5,161	—	—	64,136
Boundary Water Canoe Route Study	NW	Natural Res.	24,600	7,631	11,598	15,355	—	59,184
Highway #599	NW	T. and C.	607,839	2,509,183	3,220,078	3,551,913	1,623,000	11,512,013
Manitou Road	NW	T. and C.	576,040	900,123	1,392,987	988,419	2,200,000	6,057,569
Intensification of Ecological and Geophysical Surveying	NW	Natural Res.	100,000	—	—	—	—	100,000
Program to assist Commercial Fishing Process	NW	Natural Res.	36,500	—	—	—	—	36,500
Hwy. #642; Road from Alcona to Valora	NW	T. and C.	536,865	—	—	—	—	536,865
Remote Ontario Airstrip Construction	NW	T. and C.	100,000	—	—	—	—	100,000
Books by Mail Service	NW	Col. & Univ.	—	5,000	—	—	—	5,000
Mobile Teaching Laboratories	NW	Col. & Univ.	—	20,000	—	—	—	20,000
Consumer Education in the North	NW	Col. & Univ.	—	27,468	100,000	—	—	127,468
Life Skills Program (I)	NW	Corr. Serv.	—	39,634	20,000	20,000	—	79,634
Volunteer Native Probation Officials	NW	Corr. Serv.	—	34,115	54,000	54,000	—	142,115
Ignace Sewage Treatment Plant	NW	Environment	—	3,478	53,318	517,539	24,000	598,335
Cobalt Tourism Development	NE	Ind. & Tour.	—	15,000	124,875	—	—	139,875
Manpower Needs Project	NW	Labour	—	612	40,017	94,546	119,000	254,175
Lake of Woods Land Use Plan	NW	Natural Res.	—	52,561	65,071	—	—	117,632
Lakehead Waterfront Study	NW	Natural Res.	—	36,520	—	—	—	36,520
Resource Access Roads:								
Marchington	NW	Natural Res.	—	224,424	1,687,069	1,877,164	1,530,000	5,318,657
Mathieu Twp.	NW	Natural Res.	—	277,963	2,554	113,374	—	393,891
Wolfpup	NW	Natural Res.	—	39,354	38,724	39,245	—	117,323
Burchell Lake	NW	Natural Res.	—	63,948	510,981	611,077	—	1,186,006
Turtle River	NW	Natural Res.	—	408,359	310,197	173,870	205,000	1,097,426
Chisamore Lake	NW	Natural Res.	—	72,982	90,327	—	—	163,309
Pakashkan Lake	NW	Natural Res.	—	41,210	35,711	—	—	76,921
English River Recreation Area Proposal	NW	Natural Res.	—	17,662	39,102	—	—	56,764
Fisheries Management Program	NW	Natural Res.	—	150,148	—	—	—	150,148
Trappers Assistance Program	NW	Natural Res.	—	2,861	12,022	7,399	—	22,282
Lake Development Planning	NW	Natural Res.	—	16,448	16,417	22,000	—	54,865
Wild Rice Management Program	NW	Natural Res.	—	19,708	23,456	7,900	—	51,064

PROJECT	REGION MINISTRY		EXPENDITURES					TOTAL
			1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78 Proposed	
Mineral Exploration Program	NW	Natural Res.	—	11,230	317,967	—	—	329,197
Cottage Lot Studies	NW	Natural Res.	—	45,724	—	—	—	45,724
Crown Land Camping	NW	Natural Res.	—	148,941	247,964	243,783	—	640,688
Ogoki-Nipigon Fish Studies	NW	Natural Res.	—	25,425	82,800	50,921	—	159,146
Indian Policing (I)	NW	Sol. Gen.	—	251,239	155,000	—	—	406,239
City of Thunder Bay – Infrastructure			—	1,320,000	17,596,433	8,751,233	1,200,000	28,867,666
City of Cornwall Project	East	T.E.I.A.	—	6,014,970	6,335,000	3,905,030	—	16,255,000
Town of Dryden – Infrastructure	NW	T.E.I.A.	—	1,303,500	1,340,722	233,354	—	2,877,576
Native Court Worker	NW	Atty. Gen.	—	—	110,000	—	—	110,000
Integrated Social Service Delivery System	NW	Comm. Soc.	—	—	61,700	—	—	61,700
Life Skills Course	NW	Comm. Soc.	—	—	49,167	77,979	—	127,146
Hostel Accommodation – Red Lake	NW	Comm. Soc.	—	—	45,000	—	—	45,000
Multi-Purpose Residence – Chapleau	NW	Comm. Soc.	—	—	90,000	—	—	90,000
Community Resource Centres	NW	Corr. Serv.	—	—	125,000	—	—	125,000
Life Skills Program (II)	NW	Corr. Serv.	—	—	50,000	—	—	50,000
Bursaries to Native Students	NW	Corr. Serv.	—	—	22,000	—	—	22,000
Water and Sewer – Ear Falls – Red Lake	NW	Environment	—	—	600,000	—	—	600,000
Derelict Motor Vehicles Recycling	Multi	Environment	—	—	170,111	—	—	170,111
Sewer to Hospital – Attawapiskat	NW	Health	—	—	258,312	28,524	—	286,836
Geochronology Laboratories	Multi	Natural Res.	—	—	350,000	—	—	350,000
St. Lawrence Parks Commission Projects	East	Natural Res.	—	—	72,497	—	—	72,497
Indian Policing (II)	NE	Sol. Gen.	—	—	300,000	—	—	300,000
Telecommunications in Remote Northern Ontario	NW	T. and C.	—	—	1,531,667	2,401,813	3,675,000	7,608,480
Geraldton Airport	NW	T. and C.	—	—	146,359	222,295	1,775,000	2,143,654
Parry Sound Ind. Park Study	NE	T.E.I.A.	—	—	100,000	—	—	100,000
Sudbury Ind. Park Servicing	NE	T.E.I.A.	—	—	589,878	739,946	1,282,000	2,611,824
Town of Kenora – Land Acquisition	NW	T.E.I.A.	—	—	23,608	184,953	—	208,561
Indigenous Teaching Homemaker Service	NW	Comm. Soc.	—	—	—	14,865	—	14,865
Kimberley-Clark Impact Area	NW	Environment	—	—	—	410,619	6,208,000	6,618,619
Ear Falls – Red Lake Development	NW	Environment	—	—	—	1,498,268	2,785,000	4,283,268

The Projects

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PROJECT	REGION	MINISTRY	EXPENDITURES					TOTAL
			1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78 Proposed	
Kenora Sewage and Water Treatment	NW	Environment	—	—	—	1,110,053	3,060,000	4,170,053
Pembroke-Renfrew Development	East	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	501,540	3,000,000	3,501,540
Timmins – Infrastructure Assistance	NE	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	671,000	4,900,000	5,571,000
Parry Sound Area Industrial Park Servicing	NE	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	866,252	1,870,000	2,736,252
Elliot Lake – North Shore Development	NE	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	678,056	2,736,000	3,414,056
Simcoe-Georgian Area Development	South	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	—	500,000	500,000
Durham Regional Development	South	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	—	500,000	500,000
Northumberland Area Development	South	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	46,207	1,000,000	1,046,207
Hearst Waste Wood Energy Study	NE	Energy	—	—	—	60,000	—	60,000
Starratt-Olsen Community	NW	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	10,000	—	10,000
Blind River Sewer & Water	NE	Environment	—	—	—	—	1,000,000	1,000,000
Kenora Airport	NW	T. and C.	—	—	—	—	1,700,000	1,700,000
Kimberly-Clark Impact Area (Ont. only) Community Infrastructure	NW	Environment	—	—	—	—	265,000	265,000
Hwy. #584		T. and C.	—	—	—	—	836,000	836,000
White River Sewers & Water	NE	Environment	—	—	—	—	1,700,000	1,700,000
Forest Inventories	NW	Natural Res.	—	—	—	—	2,585,000	2,585,000
Sault Ste. Marie Infrastructure	NE	Environment	—	—	—	—	500,000	500,000
North Bay Infrastructure	NE	Environment	—	—	—	—	1,000,000	1,000,000
Homepayne Development	NE	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	—	500,000	500,000
Chapleau Airport Expansion	NE	T. and C.	—	—	—	—	800,000	800,000
Implementation of Sudbury Base Study Recommendations	NE	Multi	—	—	—	—	500,000	500,000
Northern Ontario Tourism Development	North	I. and T.	—	—	—	—	300,000	300,000
Upper Ottawa Valley	East	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	—	400,000	400,000
Rural Development Programs	Multi	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	—	500,000	500,000
Thousand Island Parkway	East	T. and C.	—	—	—	—	585,000	585,000
Colborne Sewage System	South	Environment	—	—	—	—	450,000	450,000
East Cobourg Sewage System	South	Environment	—	—	—	—	500,000	500,000
Industrial Development Assistance	Multi	T.E.I.A.	—	—	—	—	1,300,000	1,300,000
Northern Community Electrification	North	Multi	—	—	—	—	809,000	809,000
Total Regional Priority Budget			\$2,032,291	\$14,115,949	\$38,624,850	\$30,800,492	\$56,422,000 *	\$141,995,582

The future

The Government of Ontario recognizes that the growing aspirations and increasingly diversified economic base of the Province require increased services and new supporting industries throughout Ontario.

The Regional Priority Budget and the General Development Agreement with the federal government are vitally important programs in meeting these objectives.

*As of April 1, 1977 — Budget apportioned to:

New Ministry of Northern Affairs	\$48,187,000
Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs	\$ 8,235,000
Total	\$56,422,000



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